



## Environmental Politics – POLI 202

### University Studies Program

### Course Outline

COURSE IMPLEMENTATION DATE: January 2012  
OUTLINE EFFECTIVE DATE: September 2017  
COURSE OUTLINE REVIEW DATE: March 2022

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#### GENERAL COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Today, the environment has become one of the most pressing issues on the political agenda. Politicians are forced by many constituents to take a stand on environmental issues, risking electoral consequences if they do not. Is that fair? Do the arguments and positions of environmentalists need to be questioned? This course surveys the association between environmentalism and politics, seeking to inform students of the debates about the environment and to examine several of the associated political themes as well as the main analytical, legal, and ethical approaches used in creating environmental policy.

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**Program Information:** This course has been developed for the University Studies' Environmental Programs. It can also be used as a Social Science elective in several University Studies and Business Programs at the College of the Rockies and other post-secondary institutions.

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**Delivery:** This course is delivered face to face

**COTR Credits:** 3

**Hours for this course:** 45 hours

#### Typical Structure of Instructional Hours:

Instructional Activity	Duration
Lecture Hours	45
Seminars / Tutorials	
Laboratory / Studio Hours	
Practicum / Field Experience Hours	
Other Contact Hours	
<b>Total</b>	<b>45</b>

#### Practicum Hours (if applicable):

Type of Practicum	Duration
On-the-job Experience	N/A
Formal Work Experience	N/A
Other	N/A
<b>Total</b>	

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**Course Outline Author or Contact:**

Marcel Dirk, BA, MA, PDPP

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Signature

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**APPROVAL SIGNATURES:**

Department Head  
Erin Aasland Hall  
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Department Head Signature

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Dean Signature

EDCO

Valid from: September 2017- March 2022

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Education Council Approval Date

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**COURSE PREREQUISITES AND TRANSFER CREDIT**

**Prerequisites:** POLI 100

**Corequisites:** N/A

**Flexible Assessment (FA):**

Credit can be awarded for this course through FA  Yes  No

**Transfer Credit:** For transfer information within British Columbia, Alberta and other institutions, please visit <http://www.cotr.bc.ca/Transfer>

Students should also contact an academic advisor at the institution where they want transfer credit.

**Prior Course Number:** N/A

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## **Textbooks and Required Resources:**

Textbook selection varies by instructor and may change from year to year. At the Course Outline Effective Date the following textbooks were in use:

Dryzek, John. *The Politics of the Earth: Environmental Discourses* 2nd ed. Toronto: ON: Oxford University Press, 2005.

*The Environmental Politics Reader: Debating the Earth* Second Edition. John S. Dryzek and David Schlosberg, eds. Toronto: Oxford University Press, 2005.

Please see the instructor's syllabus or check COTR's online text calculator <http://go.cotr.bc.ca/tuition/tCalc.asp> for a complete list of the currently required textbooks.

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## **LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

Upon the successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- apply principles and practices of sound political science inquiry through research, examination, and interpretation of sources;
  - research, evaluate, assess, construct, and properly document an academic argument and political science interpretation through various written assignments;
  - articulate a thoughtful and critical approach to the nature of environmental politics through class participation;
  - assess policy concepts, including ideologies put forward by environmental groups proposing policy restructuring and private sector firms attempting to reconcile economic and ecological values through discussions and lectures;
  - gain an overview of key environmental agents, including political organizations, institutions, and processes through discussions and lectures;
  - understand environmental legislation through discussions and lectures;
  - place environmentalism in both the domestic and international context through discussions and lectures;
  - apply such knowledge to particular environmental case studies through class presentations;
  - develop interpersonal/teamwork and oral communication skills through class presentation; and
  - use critical and analytical thinking to assess course content and themes through exams.
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## **COURSE TOPICS:**

- Environmental political culture: attitudes, beliefs, goals, and values
- Environmental themes, theories, and ideology
- Environmental social movements; interest groups, including Indigenous; and political parties
- Environmental law, regulation, and ethics
- Environmentalism in international foreign policy and development
- Potential solutions to the environmental crisis

**OPTIONAL COURSE TOPICS:**

- Case studies on environmental policymaking, drinking water, nuclear waste, mining, oil/gas, and/or global warming

*See instructor's syllabus for the detailed outline of weekly readings, activities and assignments.*

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**EVALUATION AND ASSESSMENT:**

Assignments	% Of total Grade
Class Participation	5%
Class Presentation	15%
Annotated Bibliography	20%
Research Essay	35%
Course Tests	<u>25%</u>
Total	100%

*Please see the instructor's syllabus for specific classroom policies related to this course, such as details of evaluation, penalties for late assignments, and use of electronic aids.*

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**EXAM POLICY:**

Students must attend all required scheduled exams that make up a final grade at the appointed time and place.

Individual instructors may accommodate for illness or personal crisis. Additional accommodation will not be made unless a written request is sent to and approved by the appropriate Department Head prior to the scheduled exam.

Any student who misses a scheduled exam without approval will be given a grade of "0" for the exam.

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**COURSE GRADE:**

Course grades are assigned as follows:

Grade	A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D	F
Mark (Percent)	≥ 90	89-85	84-80	79-76	75-72	71-68	67-64	63-60	59-55	54-50	< 50

A grade of "D" grants credit, but may not be sufficient as a prerequisite for sequential courses.

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**ACADEMIC POLICIES:**

See [www.cotr.bc.ca/policies](http://www.cotr.bc.ca/policies) for general college policies related to course activities, including grade appeals, cheating and plagiarism.

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**COURSE CHANGES:**

Information contained in course outlines is correct at the time of publication. Content of the courses is revised on an ongoing basis to ensure relevance to changing educational, employment, and marketing needs. The instructor endeavours to provide notice of changes to students as soon as possible. The instructor reserves the right to add or delete material from courses.